

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: VISIT OF AMSPEC JOHN GARDNER

REF: STATE 230531

1. UNION OF WRITERS HAS NOW GIVEN VERBAL AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE GARDNER. UNION HAS REQUESTED FURTHER INFORMATION ON HIM AND COPIES OF HIS WORKS, AND EMBASSY IS SUPPLYING THESE. GARDNER WAS NOT PROPOSED TO MINCULT AS REF IMPLIES.

2. UNION REPS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER FEBRUARY VISIT. THEY FEAR WEATHER CONDITIONS WILL PREVENT TRAVEL TO CAUCASUS OR CENTRAL ASIA AT THAT TIME. HENCE GARDNER HAS TWO CHOICES. IF HE PREFERS TO COME IN FEBRUARY, PROGRAM OF VISITS TO CITIES IN EUROPEAN PART OF SOVIET UNION (MOSCOW-LENINGRAD-KIEV-PERHAPS MINSK AND/OR BALTIC CITY) WITH TRAVEL BY TRAIN CAN BE WORKED OUT. IF GARDNER WISHES TO TRAVEL TO TBILISI, YEREVAN, NOVOSIBIRSK, ETC., VISIT SHOULD BE POSTPONED TILL APRIL-MAY. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. UNION HAS ALSO REQUESTED SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS REGARDING PROGRAM. EMB PREPARED TO DEVELOP THESE, INCLUDING MEETING UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH WRITERS, VISITS TO LITERARY JOURNALS AND UNIVERSITIES,

PUBLIC READINGS, ETC., BUT REQUEST DEPT ADVISE ON ANY SPECIFIC GARDNER WISHES AT THIS TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW DEGREE OF GARDNER'S INTEREST IN SIGHTSEEING, MUSEUM VISITS, ETC., PLUS INFO REGARDING HIS PREFERENCES IN REGARD TO CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. WOULD HE PREFER CONCERT TO THEATER PERFORMANCE? IS HE INTERESTED IN SOVIET PLASTIC ARTS, ETC?

MATLOCK

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